NET NEUTRALITY AND THE LIBRARY
The Future of the Open Internet
WHAT IS IT?
FEBRUARY 26, 2015

FCC reclassified broadband under Title II and other Net Neutrality rules in a 3-2 vote.
Title II the Key to Net Neutrality
THIS IS A GLOBAL ISSUE

Net Neutrality

Netherlands and Chile lead the way
FCC CHAIRMAN, TOM WHEELER, RECENTLY SPOKE AT THE MOBILE WORLD CONGRESS IN BARCELONA, SPAIN
BACKGROUND/TIMELINE

A lot has changed in 25 years!
THE COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1934 IS THE FOUNDATION OF THE FCC
A LOT HAS CHANGED IN 25 YEARS!

- **First World Wide Web (www) server**
  - **December 1990**, the world's first World Wide Web (WWW or Web) server ran on this NeXT computer at CERN, the European centre for particle physics near Geneva. Originally made in order to improve data communication between particle physicists, made the World Wide Web possible.
TIMELINE

- 1993 FCC regulated ISPs as “common carriers”
- 1996 Congress passed the Telecommunications Act, which re-classified what services were considered “common carriers”
- 2002 FCC ruled to classify ISPs at “information services”, so no longer under FCC regulations
**Timeline**

- **2003**
  - Tim Wu, Columbia University Law professor, coined the term “Net Neutrality"

TIMELINE

- 2005 FCC issues Internet policy statement which addresses net neutrality rules

- 2006 Congress introduced the Internet Freedom and Non-Discrimination Act of 2006, which failed to pass

- 2007 - 2008 Comcast was directed by the FCC to stop blocking web traffic and submit a network plan
TIMELINE

- 2009 to Present
  - Legal battles
  - FCC adopts new guidelines
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

- September 24, 2014
- Opening Statement of Federal Communications Commission before the Congressional Forum on Net Neutrality

“We must ask and determine. . .”
The Future

- Ongoing debate
- Changing technology
WHY NET NEUTRALITY IS A GOOD IDEA
WOULD HAVE ALLOWED COMPANIES TO CREATE A TWO-TIER INTERNET
FAST LANE VS. SLOW LANE

https://www.flickr.com/photos/68504530@N06/6243874667/
ENSURE CONTINUED EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BROADBAND ACCESS

The Faster the Internet, The Fewer the Choices
Three-quarters of households have the choice of only one broadband provider while only a quarter have at least two to choose from.

The share of homes with broadband providers available at each speed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of broadband providers available</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>10</th>
<th>25</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ONE</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TWO</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>61%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THREE OR MORE</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LATEST BROADBAND DEFINITION

*Defined by the Federal Communications Commission of at least 25 megabits per second download speed.*

Sources: National Telecommunications and Information Administration; State Broadband Initiative (Dec. 2013); Federal Communications Commission

By The New York Times
EQUAL ACCESS
INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM
SAME RULES FOR WIRED VS. WIRELESS ACCESS

- Wireless providers disproportionately serve as the only option in many underserved areas
BROAD SUPPORT

NETFLIX

Google

Facebook

amazon.com

MLB.tv

ALA American Library Association

EFF
SAMPLING OF ARGUMENTS AGAINST NET NEUTRALITY
OPPOSITION

at&t

COMCAST

T-Mobile

Time Warner Cable

verizon
NEW RULES AREN'T NECESSARY
BAD FOR INVESTMENT AND INNOVATION

HIGHER COST TO CONSUMERS

TREATING THE INTERNET AS A TELECOM SERVICE IS A BAD FIT
GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

LOOKING AHEAD, CONGRESSIONAL ACTION PROPOSED BY OPPONENTS...
LEGISLATION

http://jolly.house.gov/legislation
WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LIBRARIES AND FVRL?
WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO LIBRARIES?

- Intellectual Freedom
- Desire for equal access to all
- Likelihood that libraries and nonprofits would be in the "slow lane"
- Possible subscription cost increases
FVRL Internet Use

Overall Statistics

- In 2014 our patrons spent 255,426 hours on library internet computers
- 542,911 individual sessions

Our patrons use the Internet for many things, including:

- Tax Forms
- Health information
- Job Searches
- Court documents
- Genealogy research
- Social Media/email
- Watch TV & Movies
CUSTOMERS SHOULDN’T SEE IMMEDIATE CHANGES

- This was the point of passing the Open Internet Order (Wheeler)
SUMMARY

https://www.aei.org/publication/whats-next-road-net-neutrality/